

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (original). A method of determining air humidity with a capacitive moisture measuring element, comprising the method steps of:

- charging and/or discharging the capacitive moisture measuring element by way of a first measuring resistor, wherein a first time constant or a first period duration of the charging and/or discharging operation is ascertained, and

- charging and/or discharging the moisture measuring element by way of a second measuring resistor, wherein the value of the second measuring resistor is different from the value of the first measuring resistor and wherein a second time constant or a second period duration of the charging and/or discharging operation is ascertained.

Claim 2 (original). A method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a method step in which the capacitance of the moisture measuring element is calculated from the two time constants or the two period durations, wherein the moisture measuring element for the calculation operation is modelled by a parallel circuit of an ideal capacitor and an ohmic resistance.

Claim 3 (original). A method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a method step in which , the ohmic resistance value of the moisture measuring element is calculated from the two time constants or the two period durations, wherein the moisture measuring element for the calculation operation is modelled by a parallel circuit of an ideal capacitor and an ohmic resistance.

Claim 4 (original). A method as set forth in claim 2, further comprising a method step in which a current moisture signal is ascertained with the capacitance of the moisture measuring element.

Claims 5-8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended). A moisture sensor as set forth in claim 118, further comprising a monitoring unit by which a certain deviation of an ohmic resistance value of the moisture measuring element over a relatively long period of time can be detected and signalled.

Claim 10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (new). A moisture sensor comprising a capacitive moisture measuring element and a first circuit connected to the moisture measuring element, the first circuit comprising a first measuring resistor, a second measuring resistor and a processing circuit,

the first measuring resistor operably coupled to charge and/or discharge the capacitive moisture measuring element, the processing circuit operable to determine a first time constant or a first period duration of the charging and/or discharging operation, and

the second measuring resistor operably coupled to charge and/or discharge the moisture measuring element, wherein the value of the second measuring resistor is different from the value of the first measuring resistor, the processing circuit operable to determine a second time constant or a second period duration of the charging and/or discharging operation.

Claim 12 (new). A moisture sensor according to claim 11, wherein the processing circuit includes a timer circuit and a control unit.

Claim 13 (new). A moisture sensor according to claim 11, wherein the capacitive moisture measuring element has a capacitance that varies as a function of humidity.

Claim 14 (new). A moisture sensor according to claim 13, wherein the capacitive moisture measuring element has a resistive value.

Claim 15 (new). A method of determining air humidity, comprising:

- charging and/or discharging a moisture measuring element by way of a first measuring resistor, the moisture measuring element having a capacitance that varies as a function of humidity, wherein a first time constant or a first period duration of the charging and/or discharging operation is determined, and

- charging and/or discharging the moisture measuring element by way of a second measuring resistor, wherein the value of the second measuring resistor is different from the value of the first measuring resistor and wherein a second time constant or a second period duration of the charging and/or discharging operation is determined.

Claim 16 (new). A method as set forth in claim 15, further comprising determining the capacitance of the moisture measuring element using the two time constants or the two period durations, wherein the moisture measuring element for the calculation operation is modelled by a parallel circuit of an ideal capacitor and an ohmic resistance.

Claim 17 (new). A method as set forth in claim 15, further comprising determining an ohmic resistance value of the moisture measuring element from the two time constants or the two period durations, wherein the moisture measuring element for the calculation operation is modelled by a parallel circuit of an ideal capacitor and an ohmic resistance.

Claim 18 (new). A method as set forth in claim 16, further comprising determining a current moisture signal using the capacitance of the moisture measuring element.